





## COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

FRIDAY, 13th August.

The rates of the day are given at \$335 to \$340 for New Patas, and \$1024 to \$305 for Diners.

## EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON—Bank, on demand..... 394  
Bank Bills, at 30 days sight..... 364  
Bank Bills, at 6 months' sight..... 394  
Credit, at 6 months' sight..... 310  
Documentary Bills, 64 months' sight..... 2104  
ON BOMBAY—Bank, on demand..... 2234  
ON CALCUTTA—Bank, on demand..... 2204  
ON SHANGHAI—Bank, sight..... 72  
Private, 30 days' sight..... 734

SILVER.  
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Shares—80 per cent premium.  
United Insurance Society of Canton—\$1,400 per share.

China Trade's Insurance Company's Shares—  
31,400 per share.

North China Insurance—1,075 per share.

Yangtze Insurance Association—41s., 718 per share.

Chinese Insurance Company—830 per share.

Oriental Insurance Company, Limited—The 13s.

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

FROM this date, until further notice, a discount of 10% will be given (20%) on the Local Estate of Prima to be allowed upon Insurances effected with this Company.

Douglas Lapraik & Co.

Hongkong, 3rd June, 1878. [18]

PHOENIX FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned having been appointed Agents in the above Company at this Port, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE to the extent of \$10,000 on Buildings or on Goods stored therein.

Discount 20%.

VOGEL & Co.

Hongkong, 1st March, 1878. [18]

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY'S SHARES—  
\$230 per share.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—Par (nominal).

Cosmopolitan Dock Company—Par (nominal).

Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.'s Shares—Par (nominal).

Shanghai Steam Navigation Company—The 3 per share (nominal).

China Coast Steam Navigation Company—The 100 per share.

Hongkong Gwi Company's Shares—\$80 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$67 per share, as dividend.

China Trade's Clothing Company, Limited—\$161 per share.

China Star Booting Company (Debtors)—3 per cent premium.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1874—(Nominal).

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1877—(Nominal).

SALES REPORTED BY CHINESE.

Varmioki—20 bags, \$325, by Yeo Wo to travelling trader.

Red Date—50 bags, at \$8.30, by Yeo Wo to travelling trader.

Red Date—10 bags, at \$2.00, by Wing Lo, China to travelling trader.

Sawsoots—10 bundles, at \$2.10, by Kwong Fook Wo to local trader.

White Wax—2 pieces, at \$35.70, by Kwong Fook Wo to travelling trader.

Stocks—10 bundles, at \$3.30, by Hop Tyo to travelling trader.

HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

WEATHER AT HONGKONG, 1st August, 1880.

WEATHER AT HONGKONG, 2nd September, 1879. [18]

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

AGENTS AS AT THE TREATY PORTS OF CHINA AND JAPAN, AND AT SINGAPORE, SALON, PEKING, AND NANKIN.

Risks accepted, and Policies of Insurance granted at the rates of Premium current at the above-mentioned places.

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,

Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st November, 1878. [18]

RECORD OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN SHIPPING.

ARNOLD KARBERG & CO., Hongkong, 2d September, 1879. [18]

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY (LIMITED).

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

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JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,

Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st November, 1878. [18]

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES.

August 13th.

WEATHER AT HONGKONG.

## EXTRACTS.

DARK AND BRIGHT.  
(FROM THE JAPANESE.)

Big with power, the night-storm quivers,  
Quick to feel, the torrent alivers,  
And the roaring water-falls.  
By the tempest tossed and driven,  
Into crystal rains it rives;  
But the moon's limning spell  
In each scattered drop-lot dwells.  
Mirrors many glist and glister,  
Softly in her jewel-shoe;  
She is one, alone, serene.

F. R. H. in Japan Mail.

Tokio, 6th July, 1890.

## ANECDOTAL PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH.  
The Duke may be considered a lucky man. His good fortune, indeed, began with his baptismal day, when his Royal mother christened him Alfred—dearest of names to Englishmen. Then he was destined for the Navy, and styled the Sailor Prince, so that boys nursed themselves into the belief that he must have something of Nelson in him as well as of Alfred.

Necessity to say he amply fulfilled the highest hopes entertained of him. In fact, Princes have a habit of meriting praise in these days, and this Prince was very carefully brought up. A Mr. Birch first had charge of him, and succeeded by Mr. Orbits, and Mr. Orbits by Major Cawell. Under the care of this last gentleman, the Prince went to Geneva to study modern languages. At length he has done a fair share of work, though he never shone in anything—excepting such as was burnt in his honour. This is simply because since 1858, when the Prince became a cadet, we have been engaged in no war of sufficient magnitude to justify Ministers in permitting a Queen's son to risk his life. In 1878, however, the Duke of Edinburgh was in command of one of the ships which sailed up the Dardanelles, and he there won good opinions by his general smartness. Dreading a conflict with Russia, he was quite anxious for the sound of a shot from the Turkish batteries, when he would have replied with double good-will, in the hope that the alliance of England with the Unscrupulous One would thereby be dissolved for ever, and replaced by an understanding with his father-in-law. On this occasion His Royal Highness came out, not exactly as an orator, but as a man who could speak a few words feelingly and well. I am afraid he has never been very popular in the Navy, but he never liked him better than they ever did before.

Why the Prince never became a universal favourite with his brother rats it would be difficult to say. One may mention, however, that His Royal Highness has not, perhaps, been at all times sufficiently disposed to sink the Prince in the Sailor. One Admiral was baffled because a simple captain floated the Royal Standard; another because the Prince called on him in plain clothes. The latter Admiral, indeed, administered a grave rebuke, stiffly observing, "I should have been very happy to receive your Royal Highness on any other occasion, but unfortunately at this moment I am expecting a visit from the captain of the *Gala*." His Royal Highness took the hint, returned to his own ship, donned his uniform, and returned. Of course, to be under the Duke is like serving in a crack regiment. You live not wisely, but too well. The officers of the *Sidon*, were obliged to petition the Admiralty for a subsidy to pay their mess bills. My Lords, after some delay, consented to a grant.

The Duke has the reputation of being a prudent administrator of the funds voted him by the nation, and is thus a representative Scotman by instinct as by title. He will some day be very rich indeed, and is not badly off now, which his Parliamentary grant of £25,000 a-year and his wife's fortune—estimated at double that amount. A Radical member has already been mischievous enough to suggest that when his Royal Highness becomes Duke of Coburg, he will have no further need for this English allowance, on which occasion Mr. Gladstone rose and administered a grave rebuke to his indiscreet follower.

In one respect the Duke is no Scot—at least of the traditional type—for he has a fine sense of humour. He once travelled in Canada, where he was escorted by a guide who had formerly been in attendance on his older brother. "The Prince of Wales gave me a splendid gold watch, sir," the guide took an early opportunity of observing. "Indeed," replied Alfred, "that's more than he ever did for me," with which was hopelessly lost on the colonial.

Another travelling experience of the Duke's. The *Gala* was at anchor in some Australian port, and his Royal Highness himself on shore. The officer left in command good-naturedly allowed all who chose to come on board and see the vessel. Even the captain's cabin was thrown open. Its tenant had apparently been washing his Royal hands, when he had formerly been in attendance on his older brother. "The Prince of Wales gave me a splendid gold watch, sir," the guide took an early opportunity of observing. "Indeed," replied Alfred, "that's more than he ever did for me," with which was hopelessly lost on the colonial.

The Duke is sixth in succession to the crown of England, and though he has sometimes been called a Liberal, and certainly dislikes the foreign policy of Lord Beaconsfield, yet all who are uneasy about personal government should pray that some of details may ever give us an Alfred II. for our king—at least not this Alfred. I remember hearing the question of the stability of our constitution discussed at the late Mr. Grotte's. The historian of Greece held that it might be destroyed more easily than was commonly supposed, and that the event might happen at no very distant period. "If," he said, "the thrones were ever to be filled by a man of talent, energy, and courage, we might have to fight for our liberties once more." "Well," remarked a lady, who had the best means of knowing, "Prince Alfred possesses all three." Doubtless the English people would win the battle, but the best of revolutions, well observed Thiers, is a terrible calamity."

The Duke is certainly ambitious, and European complications may yet give him the needed chance for playing a part in history. It was a bold disappointment to the boy-Prince when Lord Palmerston's Government refused to allow him to accept the proffered crown of Greece. A more splendid prize was possibly within his grasp during the course of the last war. More than one statesman suggested the formation of a new Byzantine Empire, with Constantinople for its capital and all European Turkey for its territory. The son of the Queen and son-in-law of the Czar was thus to have been Emperor, and the Eastern Question was finally settled—till it broke out again. I have reasons for believing, however, that it is not improbable the Duke of Edinburgh may one day find himself Prince of Euromania. Prince Charles in childless, and likely to remain so. In the event of accidents, his people would have to look out for a successor. Would the Duke prefer to reside in Bucharest, rather than in Gothic? That is half the question. An English Prince married to an "orthodox" wife would certainly be the most eligible of candidates—Truth.

## THE TRUE PICTURE OF A "HELL-HOLE."

Mr. Matthew Arnold has just published in one of the reviews a brilliant paper, in which, among other things, he dwells upon the utter absence in certain places of "an instinct for fit and pleasing forms of social manners." These places, he says, are what old Cobbold used to designate Hell-holes. As a type Mr. Arnold mentions St. Helens and Blackburn. So far as Blackburn is concerned, and it is a type of the modern cotton town, Mr. Arnold could not have gone wider of the mark than in calling it a Hell-hole. Those who found their judgment of Lancashire character upon the police reports of that county, and point significantly to the ominous proportion of crimes of violence, are of the large number of human beings who, not knowing how to read statistics aright, find in figures the most deceptive of all evidence. No better cure can be found for a rooted belief in the brutality of Lancashire than a visit to Blackburn from Sunday to Monday, the part of the week which affords the best opportunity of studying the manners of the people. When I saw Blackburn for the first time, it was doing its best to make itself an evil name. The town was on strike—the strike which caused the memorable lock-out in North-East Lancashire. Colonel Raines' factory was a smoking ruin, many of the mills at Harwood were without a single pane of glass; Burnley had lost its wracking scenes, although not of so violent a character as those at Blackburn; Preston was uneasy, and Accrington and Darwen inclined for an outbreak. Such, at least, was the opinion of the authorities, who poured troops swiftly into the town. It was roundly asserted, and probably with much sincerity on the part of the talkers, who clung to the idea of "more troops" with extraordinary tenacity, that working classes, from Burnley to Preston and from Darwen to Clitheroe, were ripe for revolution. Dwellers in remote houses begged patrols for their neighbourhood, and detachments of infantry were quartered for the night in such places as Eccles' Mill. Lancashire and dragons cleared the streets at the first attempt to organize an open-air meeting; and to the shame of cowardly affluence, it may be added that loud appeals were made to the soldiers to "shoot the people down" in the event of another riot.

All England was ringing with the story of the Blackburn and Burnley riotings, and the weavers of those towns by the moorside were put up against wild savages by the rest of the community. My practical experience, however, encouraged me to see what manner of life was to be had in a Hell-hole. The people are all as virtuous as their neighbours. Many of them are thrifty, and most of them are deeply attached to their homes and families. On the whole, there is no better type of a great industrial population to be found in the Old World, and perhaps not in the New World either.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

## EDIBLE FERNS.

The young shoots of a handsome tree fern, *Anisopteris excelsa*, are eaten in the Society Islands; the large rhizome is in great part composed of a mucilaginous matter, from which, when dried, a kind of flour is prepared. In the same islands the young fronds of *Hemitelia corymbosa* are prepared and eaten in the same way as asparagus. The young fronds of *Asplenium hastatum*, the "Bilobals" of the Fiji Islands, are eaten in times of scarcity; and the soft scales covering the stipes of the fronds are used for stuffing pillows and cushions by the white settlers in preference to feathers, because they do not become so holed, and are thus a real luxury in a tropical night.

Wales the thick rhizome of *Blechnum cartilagineum* is much eaten by the natives; it is first roasted, and then beaten so to break away the woody fibre; it is said to taste like a waxy potato.—*European Ferns*.

## ANT FEELING AND LANGUAGE.

When separated for a while from each other, the joy of the little people at meeting knows scarcely any bounds. I have heard of a separation taking place between the members of a Colony for four months. When the prisoners were released and brought back by their friendly hand of their emancipators to the home of their childhood they were recognised at once and welcomed with every demonstration of joy. Ants meet antenously in playful chases.

There is no doubt that the ants have a language by which they communicate their ideas and wishes one to the other. It is a silent language, yet mutually comprehensible. How quickly does alarm spread throughout the Colony! Upon any imminent danger intelligence is immediately conveyed from chamber to chamber, from corridor to corridor, from the uppermost apartment to the lowest, with drawing-room of their extensive domain, and in a very short time their treasures are removed out of harm's way.

In my original formicarium I pressed the earth which covered a chamber full of ants, and on a later occasion I, by accident, shock the glass in which the ants had arranged their continuous habitation, and through the sides of which I could most conveniently watch their movements, and thus altered their form of another chamber used as a nursery, and crowded also with the young in the silken swaddling-bands. In less than a minute in each case the pupae were removed by the indefatigable nurses, the ants running about the while to the utmost consternation. In some nests, and those especially of the yellow tribes (*Fornicia flavo*), it has been noticed that sentinels are stationed in its avenues, when desirous to communicate the cause of fear or anger, they strike their heads against the members of their community in close proximity to them; these, in the same way, convey intelligence to others, until the whole colony is in a ferment, and measures of defence have been effectively taken.—*Letter to the Hour*.

## SOCIAL CONDITION OF THE PORTUGUESE.

It is a common remark of travellers that Portugal is a hundred and fifty years behind the rest of the world. The truth is that in some respects Portugal is considerably in advance of most even of the progressive nations of the Continent. Her system of Government is constitutional, in reality as well as in name, and her people enjoy a larger measure of individual freedom than would be considered safe either in Germany or in France. If there are fewer great fortunes in Portugal than in some other countries, there appears to be very little downright aristocracy and a spirit of contentment pervades all classes. A recent writer, Mr. Crawford, offers a particularly attractive picture of the state of the Portuguese workman or day-labourer. He is better fed than many of our own middle classes, and his amusements present a striking contrast to those of British working men. When his day's work is done, "he does not run against a post and smokes a pipe," nor does he linger in the workshop, and in his free hour, or Saturday, and in his rural district, he is as busy as a bee, and, though he puts as much as a neck-fattening, and his newest silver stud as a neck-fattening, and his newest picture as it is, has one interesting peculiarity, it is, his people's park, bought with their money, administered for them by the Corporation, and in great part, made by their hands. It was by no means so grand a park as it is now before the cotton famine came, and Blackburn, like other cotton towns, was sorely beset to find employment for her people. Skilful administrators set them to work at the park. Hills and valleys were made, not a little to the astonishment of those who doubted the weaver's capacity for hard out-of-door work. It was found rough at first, but a week or two at the beginning of that dreary time opened the weaver's lungs, and at the end of the famine period he was stronger and healthier by far than at the outset. For the "Lancashire girl" is a plastic youth, quick of eye, as of mind, with strong indigenous the workings of this most damnable system." At one time married men were not liable to conscription, and this was said to have led to a large increase of early marriage. Now, however, the law is more strict, and the Portuguese, like most of their continental neighbours, have to submit with as good a grace as possible to what is regarded as an inevitable evil. Whether this is really inevitable, it is difficult for foreign observers to decide.

The only nation the Portuguese have an enemy to fear in Spain, which haudiously, some are enthusiastic for "the Iberian idea," some for the "Portuguese idea." But this so-called "idea" avowed no real independence, was not dancing with the dragonets in the cattle-market, strove to get into the theatre, and the terrible "fely-lads," packed as thick as herrings, raw and appreciated St. James's Gazette.

## HONGKONG MARKETS.

REPORTE BY CHINESE ON THE 13TH AUGUST, 1890.

## COTTON GOODS.

KANGAROO DRILLS, 30 yards, per piece \$2.95 to 3.10

American Drills, 150m., per piece \$3.00 to 3.05

Cotton Yarn, No. 19 to 24, per 400 lbs. \$9.00 to 19.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 25 to 32, per 400 lbs. \$10.00 to 20.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 33 to 42, per 400 lbs. \$12.00 to 22.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 43 to 52, per 400 lbs. \$14.00 to 24.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 53 to 62, per 400 lbs. \$16.00 to 26.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 63 to 72, per 400 lbs. \$18.00 to 28.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 73 to 82, per 400 lbs. \$20.00 to 30.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 83 to 92, per 400 lbs. \$22.00 to 32.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 93 to 102, per 400 lbs. \$24.00 to 34.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 103 to 112, per 400 lbs. \$26.00 to 36.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 113 to 122, per 400 lbs. \$28.00 to 38.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 123 to 132, per 400 lbs. \$30.00 to 40.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 133 to 142, per 400 lbs. \$32.00 to 42.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 143 to 152, per 400 lbs. \$34.00 to 44.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 153 to 162, per 400 lbs. \$36.00 to 46.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 163 to 172, per 400 lbs. \$38.00 to 48.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 173 to 182, per 400 lbs. \$40.00 to 50.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 183 to 192, per 400 lbs. \$42.00 to 52.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 193 to 202, per 400 lbs. \$44.00 to 54.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 203 to 212, per 400 lbs. \$46.00 to 56.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 213 to 222, per 400 lbs. \$48.00 to 58.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 223 to 232, per 400 lbs. \$50.00 to 60.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 233 to 242, per 400 lbs. \$52.00 to 62.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 243 to 252, per 400 lbs. \$54.00 to 64.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 253 to 262, per 400 lbs. \$56.00 to 66.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 263 to 272, per 400 lbs. \$58.00 to 68.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 273 to 282, per 400 lbs. \$60.00 to 70.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 283 to 292, per 400 lbs. \$62.00 to 72.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 293 to 302, per 400 lbs. \$64.00 to 74.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 303 to 312, per 400 lbs. \$66.00 to 76.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 313 to 322, per 400 lbs. \$68.00 to 78.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 323 to 332, per 400 lbs. \$70.00 to 80.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 333 to 342, per 400 lbs. \$72.00 to 82.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 343 to 352, per 400 lbs. \$74.00 to 84.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 353 to 362, per 400 lbs. \$76.00 to 86.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 363 to 372, per 400 lbs. \$78.00 to 88.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 373 to 382, per 400 lbs. \$80.00 to 90.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 393 to 402, per 400 lbs. \$82.00 to 92.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 413 to 422, per 400 lbs. \$84.00 to 94.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 433 to 442, per 400 lbs. \$86.00 to 96.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 453 to 462, per 400 lbs. \$88.00 to 98.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 473 to 482, per 400 lbs. \$90.00 to 100.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 493 to 502, per 400 lbs. \$92.00 to 102.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 513 to 522, per 400 lbs. \$94.00 to 104.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 533 to 542, per 400 lbs. \$96.00 to 106.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 553 to 562, per 400 lbs. \$98.00 to 108.00

Cotton Yarn, No. 573 to 582, per 400 lbs. \$100.00 to 110.00